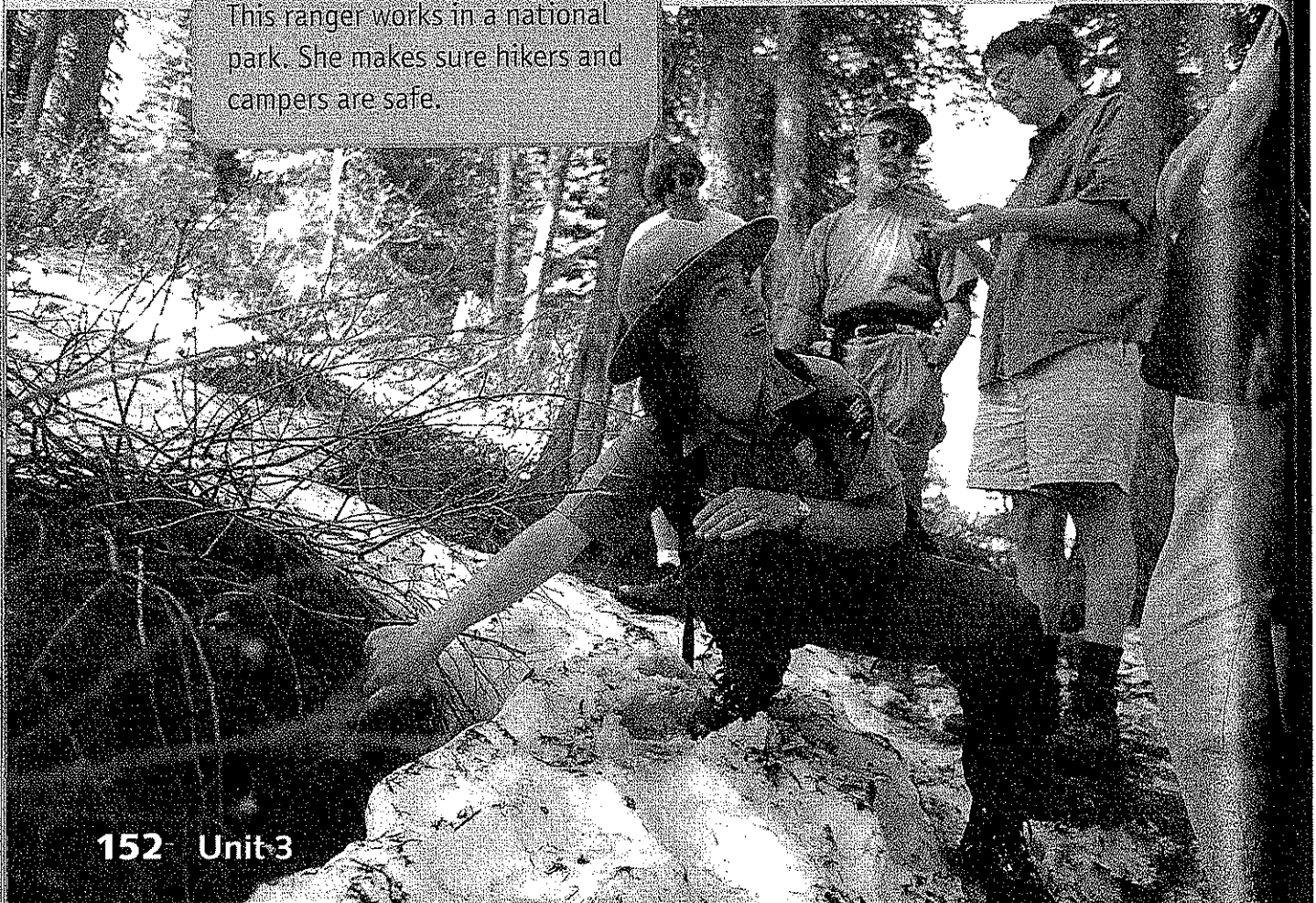


Chapter 3

Geography in Everyday Life

Geography affects the things people do every day. People often choose their jobs based on where they live. Their surroundings even suggest ways of having fun. In this chapter you'll read about such communities.

This ranger works in a national park. She makes sure hikers and campers are safe.



The Power of Water

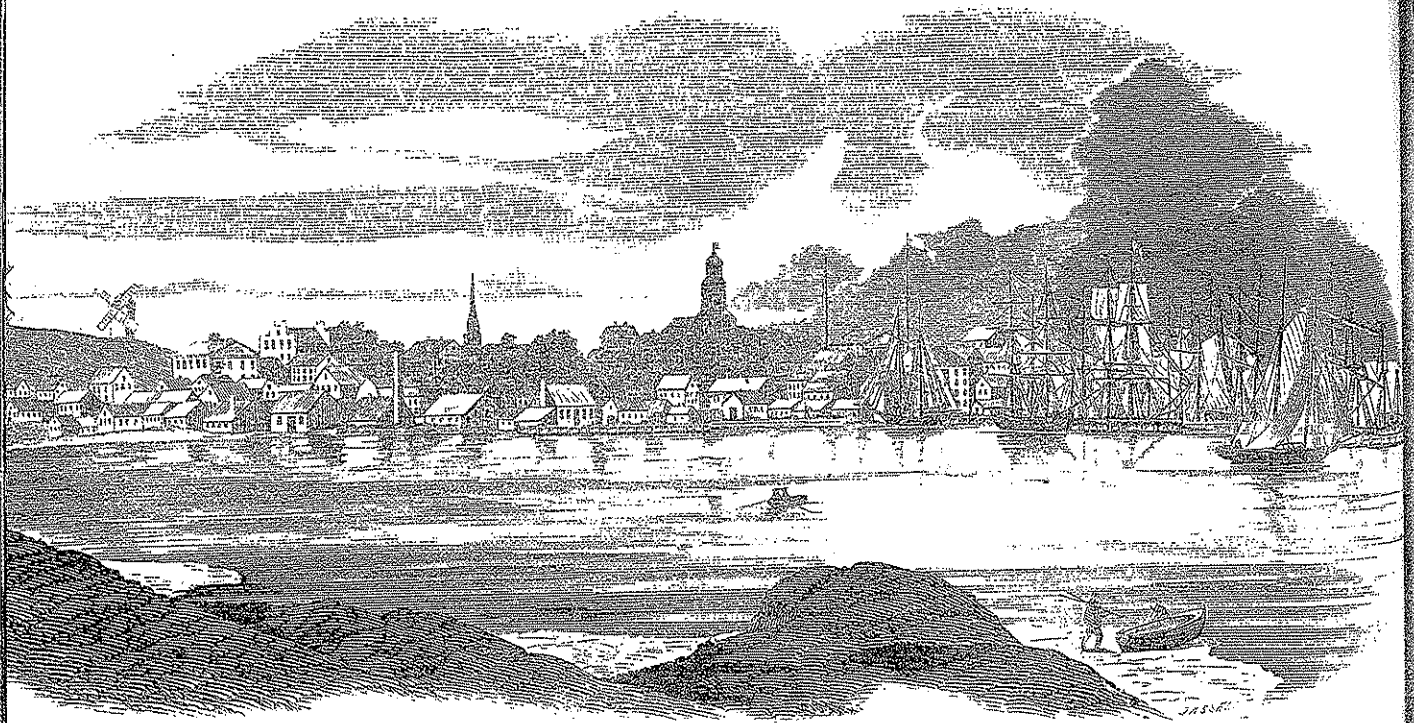
What would you do if farms needed water and there was a river close by? In the 1930s the government decided to build the Hoover Dam across the Colorado River between the states of Nevada and Arizona. Many people got jobs building the dam and keeping it in good order. That's how the town of Boulder City, Nevada, formed.

The Hoover Dam takes water from the river to use on farms and to produce electricity.

An Island Community

Nantucket, Massachusetts, was once very different from what it is today. This small island began as a whaling port. Whalers hunted sperm whales for their valuable oil. But by the mid-1800s there were few whales because they had been over-hunted. Many people began to use petroleum for fuel instead of whale oil. Nantucket's whaling industry soon came to an end.

From 1800 to 1830 Nantucket was one of the greatest whaling centers in the world.





Many people take their vacation in Nantucket.

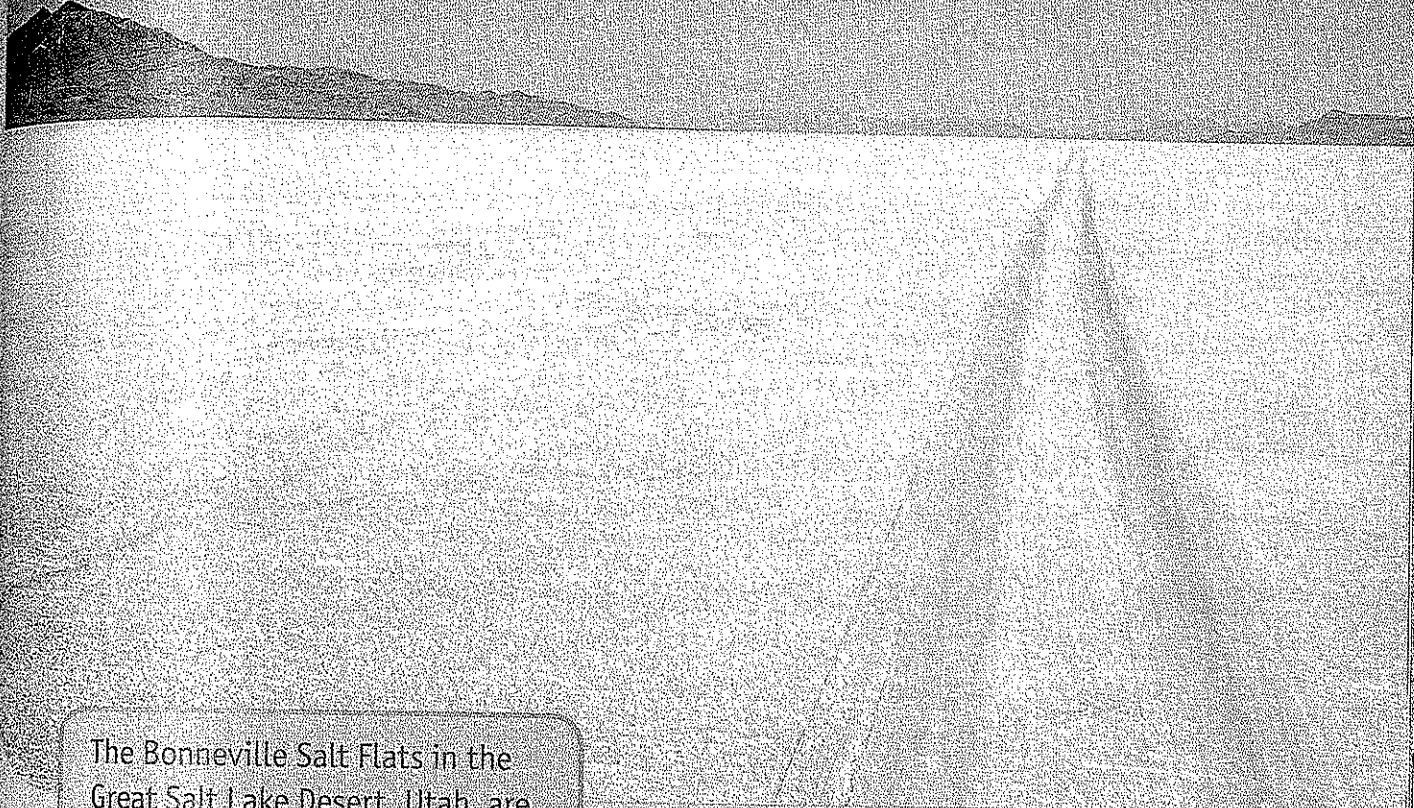
However, people found other ways to make a living on this beautiful island. Today **tourists** visit Nantucket to go fishing, boating, and swimming in the ocean. Many residents operate businesses that provide these activities for tourists.

Black Gold, Salt Fever

On January 10, 1901, oil shot out of the Lucas No. 1 well in Spindletop near Beaumont, Texas. People heard about the oil and raced to Beaumont to join the search. The town grew. Today Beaumont is the largest city in Jefferson County, Texas.

Once oil started shooting out of the Lucas No. 1 well, in Beaumont, Texas, it couldn't be stopped for nine days.





The Bonneville Salt Flats in the Great Salt Lake Desert, Utah, are the remains of an ancient lake.

People can think of amazing things to do because of an area's geography. Next to Wendover, Utah, is about 100 square miles of totally flat, empty land called the Bonneville Salt Flats. People use it for motor racing and breaking land speed records.

So how do people work and play in your community?